

The structural characteristics of the β_c chain are described in detail by the Applicants in the specification at, for example, page 9, line 1-24 and page 10, line 19-30.

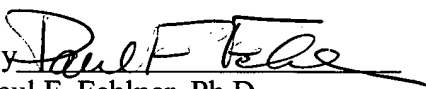
Accordingly, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the formal objections to the claims.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner perform a substantive examination of the application.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Dated: June 1, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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